

Claims:

1. A method of optimizing a communication connection by providing a desktop with data for use in route selection.
2. The method of claim 1 wherein said data includes a selection of available media for routing said communication connection.
3. The method of claim 2 wherein said data includes optimizing factors relating to each available media.
4. The method of claim 1 wherein said desktop is a computer associated with a communications terminal at a source end of said communication connection.
5. A method of selectively routing communication connections through diverse media comprising:
providing a computer associated with a first end system;
providing a lookup table in said computer, said lookup table storing a selection of media options for routing a communication connection to a second end system, said lookup table further including optimization factors and connection protocols for each media option; and
accessing said lookup table to select a media for routing said connection based on said optimization factors.
6. The method of claim 5 wherein said diverse media is selected from the group consisting of a Wide Area Network (WAN), Public Switched Telephone Network (PSTN), Telephone over Cable, Virtual Private Network (VPN), Satellite and Wireless networks.
7. The method of claim 5 wherein said first and second end systems comprise telephone terminals.
8. The method of claim 7 wherein said communication is voice communication.

18. The method of claim 16 wherein said comparison sets an improvement level of a second media option with the current connection and a switch to a new media is made only if the difference in service exceeds the improvement level.
19. The method of claim 5 wherein said lookup table identifies a selected media for routing a connection based on the identity of the second end system.
20. A system for optimizing a communication connection between communication terminals, said system having a desktop associated with one terminal for storing route selection information.
21. A system as defined in claim 20 wherein said route selection information includes a selection of communication media available for routing said connection.
22. A system as defined in claim 20 wherein said route selection information includes optimization factors relating to each available communication media.
23. A system as defined in claim 21 wherein said route selection information is stored in lookup tables in said desktop.
24. A system for selectively routing communication connections between first and second end systems through diverse media comprising:
computing means associated with said first end system;
a look up table in said computing means, said lookup table storing a list of media options available for routing a communication connection from said first end system to said second end system and optimization factors and connection protocols for each listed media option; and
accessing means to access said look up table to select one of said media options for routing a connection based on said optimization factors.

25. A system as defined in claim 24 wherein said diverse media includes a Public Switched Telephone Network (PSTN), a Wide Area Network (WAN), a Virtual Private Network (VPN) and a satellite transmission network.
26. A system as defined in claim 24 wherein said accessing means includes means to reroute a connection after initiation if a new connection better matching a users preferences becomes available.
27. A system as defined in claim 22 wherein said route selection information is stored in lookup tables in said desktop.